

a5 "The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 198 30 575.3 of July 8, 1998 and European Patent Application priority document PCT/EP99/04660 of July 5, 1999.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims."

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please ~~cancel~~ claims 1 - 15, and replace them with the attached claims 16 - 27.

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Reference numeral 82 has been added to Figure 4 for clarification.

**REMARKS**

Claims 16 - 27 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, a replacement abstract is attached to this preliminary amendment, and the claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert W. Becker*  
Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255  
for Applicant(s)

ROBERT W. BECKER & ASSOCIATES  
11896 N. Highway 14, Suite B  
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059